organic content in the offshore domains of i) Kerala-Konkan coast ii) Gulf of Mannar iii) Bay of Bengal off Pulikat Lake and iv) Mahanadi offshore. These areas are possible locales of Gas hydrates occurrence. Besides certain submarine canyons which acted as conduit for Gas hydrate have been delineated on the basis of techtonogeomorphic considerations.

(c) Economic Placer minerals bearing sand and construction Silica Sand delineated in shallow waters are promising resources. DOD is working on development of suitable offshore technology for deep sea mining to recover polymetallic nodules.

Illegal adoptions

759. SHRI S.P.M. SAYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many Indian children are being sold illegally to the foreign nationals in the name of adoption;

(b) the number of complaints received with regard to adoption of children without parent's permission in Tamil Nadu during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect the children's interest in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government of Tamil Nadu has informed that while no direct complaint has been received by them from the parents, a case involving alleged irregularities by an adoption agency is under investigation by the Police Department.

(c) The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 provides for proper care and protection and treatment of children in need of care and protection including those vulnerable to trafficking. Additionally, the State Government are requested periodically to ensure that malpractices and irregularities in adoption including sale of children for monetary consideration are removed. The State Government of Tamil Nadu has also issued instructions to recognized adoption agencies to adhere to the laid down procedures for adoption.